

<b>Notice of Allowability</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	10/693,610	SMITH, ROGER R.	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	Michael W. Talbot	3722	

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Interview Summary dated 13 July 2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-6, 8-19 and 21-28.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None    of the:
  1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
  - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
    - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)            |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment                               |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit<br>of Biological Material          | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance   |
|   | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____.   |

***Allowable Subject Matter***

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 1-6,8-19 and 21-28 are allowed.

Claims 1,14 and 27 are the independent claims.

2. Regarding claims 1 and 14, the prior art of record fails to anticipate or make obvious a force limiting coupling structure being constructed and arranged "to limit a resultant force being applied to the workpiece holder by the hydraulic closer to move the segments toward the gripping position to the spring force of the biasing structure", solely or in combination, with a force limiting workpiece holding device having a workpiece holder, a spindle and a hydraulic closer that applies the force, and a force limiting coupling structure including a biasing structure having a spring force and being mountable between the workpiece holder and the hydraulic closer such that the force applied by the hydraulic closer is transferred to the workpiece holder through the biasing structure.

Curtis '855 is the closest art of record.

Curtis '855 shows in Figure 2 a force limiting workpiece holding device having a spindle (8), a hydraulic closer (62 and col. 1, lines 40-41) that applies a force, a workpiece holder (32) slidably mountable to the spindle including a plurality of circumferentially-spaced gripping segments (col. 3, lines 34-37) and a force limiting coupling structure (14,78,86) including a biasing structure (78,86) having a spring force positioned between the workpiece holder and the closer such that the force applied by the closer is transferred to the workpiece holder through the biasing structure (via the coupling structure).

Curtis '855 does not teach that the force limiting coupling structure is constructed and arranged to limit a resultant force being applied to the workpiece holder to the spring force of the biasing structure". Curtis '855 shows as you move hydraulic closer (62) rearward (to the right as

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viewed in Fig. 2) spring (78) is compressed against wall shoulder (80) of sleeve (76) and thus moving sleeve (76) rearward as well. Also as you move hydraulic closer (62) rearward (to the right as viewed in Fig. 2), the contractor (14) is pulled rearward against spring (86) and moves workpiece holder (32) including outwardly facing cam surfaces (40) that slidably engage inwardly facing cam surfaces (42) provided on a tapered cap (4) mounted to the spindle thus gripping the workpiece. Therefore, the resultant force applied to the workpiece holder (32) is directed by hydraulic closer (62) through the contractor (14) minus that of the springs (78,86), and not "limited to the spring force of the biasing structure".

3. Regarding claim 27, the prior art of record fails to anticipate or make obvious a method for holding a workpiece in a workpiece processing assembly having a spindle and a hydraulic closer comprising the steps of (a) slidably mounting a workpiece holder including a plurality of circumferentially-spaced gripping elements to a spindle, and (b) applying a force with a hydraulic closer through a biasing structure to the workpiece holder so as to move the segments toward the gripping position wherein a resultant force being applied to the workpiece holder by the hydraulic closer to grip the workpiece is limited to a spring force of the biasing structure.

Curtis '855 is the closest art of record and has been described above.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

### ***Conclusion***

4. Any inquiry concerning the content of this communication from the examiner should be directed to Michael W. Talbot, whose telephone number is 571-272-4481. The examiner's

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office hours are typically 8:30am until 5:00pm, Monday through Friday. The examiner's supervisor, Mrs. Monica S. Carter, may be reached at 571-272-4475.

In order to reduce pendency and avoid potential delays, group 3720 is encouraging FAXing of responses to Office Actions directly into the Group at FAX number 571-273-8300. This practice may be used for filling papers not requiring a fee. It may also be used for filing papers, which require a fee, by applicants who authorize charges to a USPTO deposit account. Please identify Examiner Michael W. Talbot of Art Unit 3722 at the top of your cover sheet.



MWT  
Examiner  
14 July 2006

*Monica S. Carter*  
**MONICA CARTER**  
**SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER**